

REMARKS

This supplemental amendment and response to office action is in addition to the previously filed amendment and response to office action dated January 25, 2005.

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Kanno (US 2001/0025691).

Claims 1-8 and 12-20 are allowed.

Claims 10-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Changes in the Claims:

Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 9.

Claims 21 and 22 have been added and are supported by FIG. 2 and the claims of the present application.

Conclusion


For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the amended claims are now in proper form, and that the amended claims all define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Request for allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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